Hockey gold Pakistan's

AFP, Guangzhou



Fired-up Pakistan annexed the Asian Games men's hockey gold medal after 20 years with a convincing 2-0 win over Malaysia in the final on Thursday.

Veteran Sohail Abbas put Pakistan ahead with his team's first penalty corner in the 26th minute, before striker Rehan Butt increased the margin

It was Pakistan's eighth Asiad hockey gold, ending a drought that stretched back to Beijing in 1990, and handed them their first major title

Pakistan ended the year on a high after a disappointing eight-month period in which they finished a humiliating last at the World Cup in March and took sixth place at the

final whistle, before lifting their Dutch coach Michel van den Heuvel over their shoulders to loud applause from the stands.

at a loss for words to describe his feelings at winning a long-awaited title which gave his team a direct entry to the 2012 London Olympics.

"It's our turn to celebrate," said Ashraf. "Taking the gold after 20 years was important, but I am happier that we have also booked a place in the Olympics.

just brilliant. We came here to win and achieved

our target. Hopefully the past will be forgotten.

"Our country is facing so many problems that it needs moments like this to celebrate. I am sure our win would have brought smiles on the faces of all Pakistanis."

Malaysia, often dubbed the sport's perennial under-achievers, had to settle for silver in their maiden appearance in the title clash after winning the bronze medal six times.

The entire Malaysian team, barring Sikh player Baljit Singh, shaved their heads in a practice called 'nazar' to ward off evil spirits in the final, but failed to produce the spark that won them the semifinal against India.

Amin Rahim, whose two late goals sank India, faltered in all three penalty corners his team earned in the second half.

Malaysia had gone into the final as the only unbeaten team in the competition with four wins and a draw.

"It is disappointing to lose," said striker Faisal Saari. "But look at it this way -- we won six bronze medals earlier, now we have taken the

"I am sure we can only get better after this." Meanwhile, India returned to the Asiad

podium after missing out in Doha four years ago when they defeated favourites South Korea 1-0 in the bronze medal play-off.

Tushar Khandekar netted the winner four minutes into the second session as India dominated the lacklustre Koreans through the 70minute encounter.

India had not won an Asiad hockey medal for the first time in Doha and paid the price "What can I say about my team? They were when they failed to qualify for the Beijing Olympics two years ago.

won on Tuesday, failing in her bid to match her

sixth as tiredness took over, allowing

Kazakhstan's Margarita Matsko to take the

and before I ran I knew my body was tired," the

The 1500m world champion slumped to

"I'm very tired. It's not easy. I know myself

"I don't want to run a double like this

While Jamal flopped, Japan's Chisato

Fukushima clocked 23.62 seconds, with

"I feel very, very, very happy," she said. "And

In other events, Qatar's Femi Ogunode

Meanwhile, China's Wang Shipeng hit a

to make the final against South Korea, who

stood atop the 400m hurdles podium.

exploits from four years ago in Doha.

Siddle rocks **FROM PAGE 17**

Bell followed up his 192 against Australia A last weekend with another fighting display of 76 off 131 balls, sticking it out while wickets clattered around him.

"Credit to Siddle and Australia. I thought they finished the day off fantastically well and that spell of bowling probably turned the game on its head a little bit," Bell said.

Cook occupied the crease for nearly five hours for his 67 off 168 balls with six fours, while the dangerous Pietersen got another start only to throw it away on 43.

He went on the front foot to drive, only to get a thick edge off Siddle to find Ricky Ponting at second slip.

Collingwood only lasted eight balls before falling in Siddle's next over, edging to Marcus North at third slip for four.

England lost the wickets of skipper Andrew Strauss off the third ball of the match and Jonathan Trott in the 14th over.

Strauss sliced a wide Ben Hilfenhaus delivery straight to Mike Hussey in the gully for a duck to strike an early psychological blow for the Australians, who are bidding to regain the Ashes lost in England in 2009.

Strauss's dismissal follows his inglorious last series in Australia four years ago when he made just 247 runs at 24.70 and scored only one halfcentury in his 10 Test innings.

with an inswinger on the last ball of his opening over which collected his off-stump.

England have not won the Brisbane Test since Mike Gatting's team prevailed by seven wickets six tours ago -on the way to their last Australian series victory in 1986/87.

SCORES IN BRIEF ENGLAND: First innings 260

(Cook 67, Trott 29, Pietersen 43, Bell 76, Swann 10, Anderson 11; Siddle 6-54, Doherty 2-41)

AUSTRALIA: First innings 25 for no loss (Watson 9 not out, Katich 15 not out)

Another poor

FROM PAGE 17

But, Bangladesh, unbelievably, saw Oman level the margin scoring three goals inside four minutes and they stuck the winner just one minute from time to frustrate a hapless side.

Mamunur Rahman Chayan and Pushkor Khisa scored two goals each while Krishna Kumar stuck the fifth goal for Bangladesh.

After the elimination of the men's kabaddi team for the first time from the group stage in the games, many expected that the women's team could cover for their counterparts' failure by making it to the final.

But they never looked likely to win the game against the Thai girls, who dominated the game from the outset to finish the first-halfwith a 25-14 lead.

However, Bangladeshi girls showed some improvement in the second-half but still could not overcome the superior side and finished the game with a 34-23 loss.

In chess, the Bangladesh women's team finished sixth out of 12 nations with six points from seven games as China, India, Uzbekistan and Vietnam qualified for the semifinals after the seventh round held on be New Zealand's day, as they started the last over needing four to

Wednesday. The Bangladesh men's chess team became 10th among 17 participants securing seven points from seven games as the top four teams China, Philippines, India and Iran moved into the semifinals.



Cricket

Games in Guangzhou on Thursday. It was Pakistan's first Asiad gold in 20 years with a convincing 2-0 win.

AFP, Colombo

Part-time spinner Tillakaratne Dilshan grabbed two wickets in one over in fading light to boost Sri Lanka's hopes of gaining the lead in the second Test against the West Indies on Thursday.

Members of the Pakistan hockey team are over the moon after winning the men's hockey final against Malaysia at the 16th Asian

The off-spinner dismissed well-set Darren Bravo (80) and Brendan Nash (29) before the West Indies reached 165-5 in their first innings at stumps on the third day in reply to Sri Lanka's 387-9 declared.

Carlton Baugh was unbeaten on four and Dwayne Bravo on one not out when play was called off in the final session due to bad light.

Darren Bravo smashed four sixes and five fours in his attractive 129-ball knock before being superbly caught by Rangana Herath at point, just a delivery after Nash was trapped leg-before by Dilshan.

Bravo, who scored 58 in the drawn opening Test, steadied the innings with an 83-run stand for the fourth wicket with Nash after three wickets, including that of Chris Gayle (30), fell for 77 runs.

He played some handsome shots, thrice lofting left-arm spinner Herath and once spinner Ajantha Mendis for sixes.

Sri Lanka put the West Indies under pressure when they removed openers Adrian Barath and Gayle in the opening 12 overs before accounting for Shivnarine Chanderpaul.

Gayle, who hammered 333 in the previous Test in Galle, fell playing an attacking shot, pulling debutant paceman Suranga Lakmal to deep square-leg where Angelo Mathews took a well-judged catch.

The West Indies made a poor start when they lost Barath (three) in the third over, trapped legbefore by paceman Nuwan Kulasekara. They suffered another blow when Mendis trapped Chanderpaul (eight) leg-before. Sri Lanka earlier added 93 runs to their

overnight total of 294-5 before declaring their first innings closed. West Indies fast bowler Kemar Roach fin-

ished with 5-100, his second haul of five or more wickets in a Test innings. Sri Lanka skipper Kumar Sangakkara added

15 to his overnight total of 135, while Prasanna Jayawardene contributed 34 before becoming left-arm spinner Sulieman Benn's first victim. Sangakkara, struck on the helmet by a Roach

delivery, pulled the next ball for a four and then reached his 150 with a fluently-driven boundary through the covers. The Sri Lankan captain fell in the next over, caught at first slip by Gayle while attempting to drive seamer Darren Sammy. He cracked one

six and 18 fours in a 268-ball knock for his 24th Test century. Roach nearly got a wicket when Jayawardene top-edged an attempted cut, but Gayle failed to hold a difficult high chance at first slip when the

batsman was on 25. Jayawardene failed to make the most of the chance and could add only nine more runs

before being bowled by Benn. Roach was again the unlucky bowler when Barath dropped Herath at square-leg when the

batsman was on 21. Herath remained unbeaten with 24. But he struck in his next over when Kulasekara (17) cut the paceman straight to Dwayne Bravo

at deep point. He took his fifth wicket when he bowled Mendis (two) with a full-toss. **SCORES IN BRIEF**

SRI LANKA: First innings 387 for 9 declared (Paranavitana 16, Sangakkara 150, Samaraweera 80, Mathews 25, Jayawardene 34, Kulasekara 17, Herath 24 not out; Roach 5-100, Sammy 2-80)

WEST INDIES: First innings 165 for 5 (Gayle 30, Bravo 80, Nash 29; Dilshan 2-4)

Watson bowled Trott for 29 th an inswinger on the last Bangladesh on cusp of history

FROM PAGE 17

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boundary during his 22-ball 28.

Bangladesh coach Sarwar Imran heaped praise on his spinners for the convincing victory in the semifinal. "I think the spinners did an excellent job.

They didn't give any chance to the Sri Lankan middle-order to recover from the early collapse. Our bowlers bowled according to the plan. It's an advantage for us that we have variety in our spin bowling," said an excited Imran. He however warned that it would not be an

easy task for his team to beat Afghanistan in the final and they would need to play their best cricket while standing on the cusp of history.

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Afghanistan. Afghanistan came here with their full strength side and they are really good in T20 cricket," he cautioned.

Captain Ashraful was however confident about his team's chance of winning the firstever gold medal in the competition.

"Our bowling and fielding was really good and I'm confident about the final if we can continue our good work," hoped Ashraful.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA: 101 all out in 20 overs (Zoysa 11, Kulatunga 25, Perera 14, Jayasinghe 28; Nazmul 1-11, Shahadat 3-29, Naeem 1-4, Shuvo 4-6) BANGLADESH: 102-5 in 15.2 overs (Nazimuddin 16, Naeem 25, Ashraful 18, Faisal 33; Zoysa 2-15).

Result: Bangladesh won by five wickets.

Afghans stun Pakistan

AFP, Guangzhou

Afghanistan beat Pakistan by 22 runs on Thursday to reach the final of the Asian Games cricket tournament as the war-torn nation's battling team continued their fairytale rise in the sport. In Friday's final, they will

face Bangladesh, who eased past a disappointing Sri Lanka by five wickets to guarantee that the eventual champions will claim a first ever Asian Games gold medal.

Afghanistan scored 125-8 in their 20 overs before limiting Pakistan's flamboyant batsmen to just 103-7.

Afghanistan's score did not look enough as Pakistan made a lightning start to their reply, racing to 30 off just three overs.

Opening batsman Sharjeel Khan set the tone, hitting 12 off the first over bowled by Sahpur Zadran before he was lbw to Mirwais Ashraf for 23 off 16 balls with four boundaries and a six.

But Afghanistan managed to apply the brakes in midinnings as wickets tumbled.

As tensions rose there was a fierce verbal exchange between Pakistan captain and opener Khalid Latif and Afghanistan wicketkeeper Mohammad Shahzad, which needed the intervention of the umpires.

Nabi then trapped Latif lbw Naeemuddin Qazi was run

out to leave Pakistan on 60-3 and two wickets in the same over by Karim Sadiq left them struggling at 68-5. Naeem Anjum holed out as Pakistan tried in vain to find

the boundaries that would ease the pressure and they failed to put themselves in a position to launch a final assault. Pakistan skipper Latif said abusive words" had been

used against him but denied that it led to his dismissal soon afterwards. He put the defeat down to costly mistakes including a

number of missed run-outs. Earlier, Afghanistan made a

steady start to their innings through openers Sadiq (19) and Shahzad (17).

Nat'l cycling

FROM PAGE 17

held in 2008 at the outer stadium in Paltan, said the speakers at a press conference at the BOA Bhaban yesterday.

The four-day meet will consist of 23 events -- 12 for men's and 11 for women's.

"It is the biggest competition in term of the participation compared with the last two meets. BJMC has returned to the race after a long period and Bangladesh Army is set to debut in the cycling. Considering those things, I believe cycling has a bright future in Bangladesh," said BCF president and BOA vice chairman Mizanur Rahman Manu.

Of estimated budget of 16 lakh, sponsor National Credit and Commerce Bank will provide only Tk 5 lakh while co-sponsors Ashiyan City, Palolic Group and South East Bank will provide the rest.

NCC Bank senior vice president ATM Faruque Chowdhury, BCF vice president Mohidul Islam and media partner ATN's advisor Nawajhesh Khan were among others present.

21 Egg center 16 22 Falco or McClurg 23 Sicilian spouter

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer **24** Raw 28 | 29 minerals 26 TV alien 27 Curry of **NBC** News 28 Horse of a different 39 40 41 color? 29 Antitoxins 46 47 31 Injurious 49 50 34 Urban transport 52 35 Smear 11 Bohemian 37 Islander's home

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out of the Cup.

three minutes after half-time. since winning the World Cup in Sydney in 1994.

Commonwealth Games in October. The Pakistanis kneeled in prayer after the

Pakistan captain Zeeshan Ashraf said he was

AFP, Guangzhou World champion Maryam Jamal failed dismally in her bid for a middle distance double Wednesday as a fired-up Pakistan won its

through, their first major title since the World Cup in Sydney in 1994, went some way to compensate for their cricket team being stunned by Afghanistan in the semifinals.

On Day 13, China has its sights firmly set on shattering its best-ever gold medal haul, which stands at 183 from the Beijing Asiad in 1990.

of the Philippines in the 48-51kg bout.

with 370 safely in Chinese hands. Policewoman Ren Cancan contributed by becoming the first woman to win an Asian Games boxing title by defeating Annie Albania

squash gold. when Pakistan won the men's team final.

The Pakistani break-

first men's Asian Games

her 800m bid

ing already made the Guangzhou Games its

There was disappointment for Bahrain's

Korea's Lee Yeon-Kyung took the women's 100m hurdles and India's Ashwini Akkunji

added the men's 200m to his 400m title, South

They now have 178 with two days left, hav-

Malaysia also tasted success with world number one Nicol David leading her country past Hong Kong to win the women's team

Vietnam's Vu Thi Huong taking silver and Guzel Khubbieva of Kazakhstan claiming bronze. I will try to get another gold medal in the 4x100m relay with my teammates."

Ethiopian-born Jamal who missed out on

But their quest for a clean-sweep was denied three point shot with 13 seconds left as the reigning basketball champions beat Iran 68-65

Guangzhouzoro hockey gold in 20 years. 26-year-old said, adding that she would focus on the 1500m in future. because it's not good for my body. I'm going to prepare for gold at the Olympics. I'm confident I can win gold." Fukushima completed her own double by adding the 200m title to the 100m already to her

Maryam fails in

most successful ever in terms of total medals

adding the 800m gold to the 1500m one she

Zimbabwe

selectors a pleasant headache

as another southpaw opener

Shahriar Nafees also had an

impressive return to interna-

tional cricket during the New

Zealand series after being

recalled in absence of Tamim.

Mohammad Ashraful and

Rokibul Hasan also got back

their forms playing in the

National Cricket League one-

day competition, but Junaed

Siddiqui has been struggling

with his form to jeopardise

Pace spearhead Mashrafe

Bin Mortaza is also fit to play

the series, which is the last

international engagement for

the Tigers before next year's

World Cup, and the chief

selector informed that there

was no injury problem in the

everybody is fit. Tamim has a

minor pain in his chest but

there is nothing serious," said

Elton Chigumbura (captain),

Tatenda Taibu, Brendan Taylor,

Hamilton Masakadza, Shingi

Masakadza, Regis Chakabva,

Chamu Chibhabha, Raymond

Price, Ryan Butterworth, Craig

Ervine, Prosper Utseya,

Graeme Cremer, Keith

Dabengwa, Chris Mpofu,

ZIMBABWE SQUAD

"As per physio's report

squad right at the moment.

FROM PAGE 17

his place.

Rafiqul.

Keegan Meth.

dispatched Japan 55-51. Prime Bank Limited Meet the Press Prime Bank - Dhaka Sports Carnival 2010

Dr. Mizanur Rahman Shelly (C), chairman Dhaka Sports Carnival 2010 organising committee, addresses a press conference at the Dhaka Club yesterday. The three-day sports festival starts today.

> Coney steals one **FORM PAGE 17** The stage was set for the left-handed David Gower, one of the best timers of the ball to have stepped on a cricket field. Gower played a sublime innings of 92 off 96 deliveries, but after Fowler went for a well-crafted 69 off 112, he received negligible support from the middle and lower-order batsman. While Gower was caressing 6

> fours and hitting 4 sixes, Allan Lamb, Mike Gatting, and

Gower single-handedly kept the scoreboard moving till the last

wicketkeeper Ian Gould all departed with single-digit scores.

man Bob Willis was trapped in front by Ewen Chatfield, denying Gower a great century. England were all out for 234, with 4.4 overs remaining. The score, thanks mainly to Gower and Fowler, was competitive on a pitch with uneven bounce. New Zealand seemed dead in the water after Bob Willis removed both openers with only three runs on the board, but Geoff Howarth coming in at number three buckled down and embarked upon a rebuilding job. New Zealand were put under more pressure when Jeff Crowe departed for a watchful 47-ball 17, bowled by pacer Allott,

and his talented brother Martin was out 28 runs later, bowled by off-

spinnerVic Marks for 20.

Allrounder Jeremy Coney came in with the score reading 75 for 4, with a further 160 to win. He struck up a 71-run partnership with the patient Howarth. Disaster struck when Howarth was run out for 60 with the score on 146, and five runs later Botham rattled Ian Smith's stumps. New Zealand were staring down the barrel of defeat and possible elimination from the Cup at 151 for six. Hadlee came in at number eight to try and repair the situation with Coney, who was coolly accumulating runs as things fell apart around him, piercing the field with the odd boundary. Their partnership turned the tables on England and when Hadlee departed for 31 having put on 70 with Coney, New Zealand needed only 14 more to win with three wickets in hand.

penultimate ball. For his match-winning, unbeaten 60 off 97 balls (9 fours) and figures of 2 for 27, Coney was named man-of-the-match. That was the last bit of joy for New Zealand though, as they lost the next two matches to Pakistan and Sri Lanka and crashed

There was further drama as Lance Cairns was trapped leg-before

by Willis, leaving England with only two wickets to take. But it was to

win, and John Bracewell settled the issue by hitting a four off the